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CREATIVE FORCES: NEA MILITARY HEALING ARTS NETWORK



Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network serves the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions (PTSD), as well as their families and caregivers.

Made possible by a unique collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and state arts agencies, Creative Forces is a network of caring people who believe in the transformative and restorative powers of art.

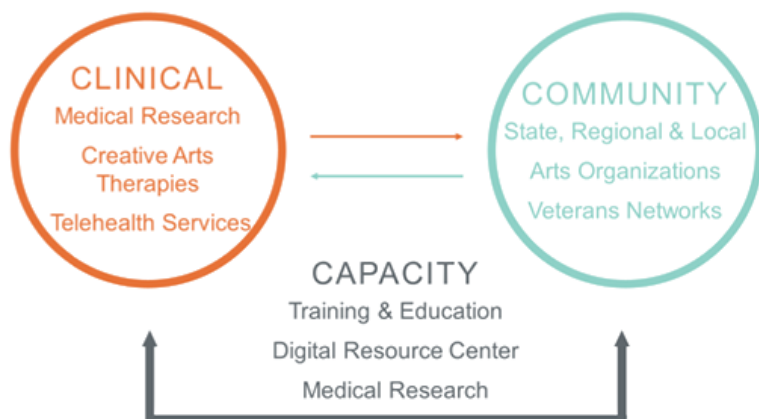
We are creative arts therapists, musicians, painters, potters, writers, woodworkers, dancers and doctors, military service members and veterans, community leaders and policymakers. Some of us work on military bases. Some of us work at hospitals. Some of us work at community art centers.

All of us have the same mission: To help military personnel and veterans return to their homes, their missions and their families whole, mentally fit and emotionally ready for whatever comes next.

CREATIVE FORCES NETWORK

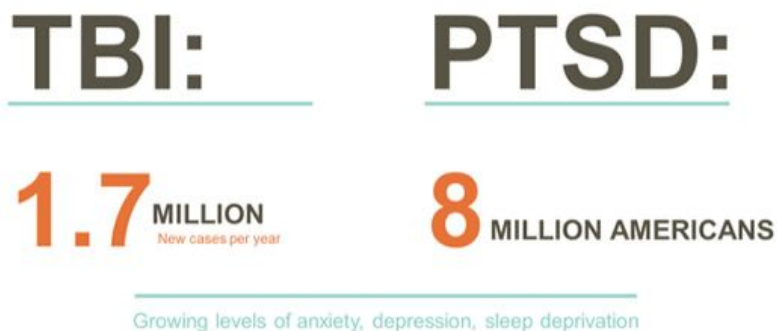
We are building a national network of care for our injured service members, whether they are active duty or veterans, in medical treatment or transitioning back home to their bases and communities.

The program has three components: Creative Forces places **creative arts therapies** at the core of patient-centered care in military medical facilities, as well as a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas; provides increased **community-based arts** opportunities for military and veteran family populations around clinical site locations; and invests in **capacity-building efforts**, including the development of manuals, training, and research on the impacts and benefits of the treatment methods.



THE NEED

There is a growing need in our country to address TBI and PTSD:



More than 500,000 men and women of our armed services are living with TBI or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), including 10-20% of all service members deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. TBI and PTSD are known to contribute to depression, and to the estimated 20 suicides committed by veterans each day.

The impact we're having is clear. We have seen first-hand, in thousands of cases, how creative arts therapies have helped service members deal with trauma as part of an integrated care model. And when they return home, we have seen the difference that these interventions have made in people's lives. Differences that medicine alone could never have achieved.

PROGRAM HISTORY

Since 2011, this military healing arts partnership has supported creative arts therapies for service members with traumatic brain injury and associated psychological health issues at two military medical facilities in the Washington, DC, area—the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) at Walter Reed Bethesda in Maryland, and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia.

The President and Congress recognized the success of the program at these facilities, and believed it could do more. In fiscal years 2016 and 2017, Congress appropriated a nearly \$2 million budget increase each year for the NEA, specifically allocated to expand this military healing arts program. In 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs also joined the network.

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Clinical Therapy

Community Network

Research